

COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC/PUBLIC SAFETY

October 2, 2001

5:15 PM

Due to the absence of Chairman Clancy, the Clerk called the meeting to order.

On motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Hirschmann, it was voted to elect Alderman Sysyn as Chairman Pro-tem.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Sysyn, Vaillancourt, Pariseau, Hirschmann

Absent: Alderman Clancy

Messrs: R. Comstock, T. Lolicata, Lt. Lussier, D. Waldecker

TABLED ITEMS

3. Discussion with Mr. Waldecker regarding parking garages, prepays validation, etc. as it relates to civic center events.

Chairman Sysyn stated Mr. Waldecker is going to be late so maybe we can move to the next item.

4. Communication from various downtown business organizations submitting a proposed flexible parking plan for downtown as it relates to civic center events.

On motion of Alderman Vaillancourt, duly seconded by Alderman Hirschmann, it was voted to remove Item 4 from the table.

Ms. Comstock stated you received a letter a couple of weeks ago as a response to again another focus group of downtown business owners and managers who have some concerns about the parking plans as they are moving forward. I want to underscore to you also that they are extremely sensitive to the care that you have applied to this issue and your concerns around it. Some of the primary concerns at this point in time are revolving around Hanover Street, the YMCA and meters being active until 10 PM. With that in mind, a group of downtown business people gathered to discuss some of their concerns in hope of presenting some kind of alternative solution for your consideration and you will see on Page 2 of the

letter dated September 19 a suggestion of considering the so-called neighborhoods or districts of downtown uniquely particularly as it pertains to metering hours or the activity of the meters. There has been expressed and I am sure you have heard about it, a great deal of concern about keeping the meters active until 8 PM although businesses in downtown very much appreciate moving to the two hour limitations to encourage a higher turnover of traffic. With that, they concluded that perhaps one consideration that you could review would be thinking again of these neighborhoods or these districts with Elm Street being the primary link of them and South of City Hall being one of those areas where meters would be active from 8 AM until 8 PM and Saturdays from 8 AM until 5 PM. That area obviously is concentrated around the Verizon Wireless Arena and free on evenings after 8 PM or after 5 PM accordingly. North of City Hall there appears to be other kinds of interests and less urgency around the demands that the civic center may pose on downtown. Just for the sake of conversation we are referring to that as North of City Hall. This group is proposing that you would consider limiting meters for that area Monday through Saturday, 8 AM until 5 PM and free in the evenings. We are hoping that you would look at the side streets as yet another prong of the complex neighborhood units. These side streets would be metered from 8 AM until 5 PM, Monday through Saturday and free on evenings.

However, with some kind of special exceptions that particularly pertain to the Palace Theatre and the high volume of traffic they have. Estimates are around 100,000 people a year and they do have genuine concerns about their client base and their customers' ability to access the theatre. We also in that regard while we are talking about exceptions hope that you will consider reviewing the special needs of the YMCA who employs approximately 250 individuals in the downtown area and they, therefore, have very unique needs that we know you are interested in supporting in terms of sustaining that institution in the downtown community – a very rich amenity that enhances the cultural dynamic of downtown. Their employees tend to be hourly employees. They are not paid a lot of money. They are a lot of young people and need to have access to their employer. We are hoping again, although we have no formal proposal, Hal is here and we are hoping that we can talk about or pursue some kind of special exception, particularly looking at free parking for the Canal Street garage on Saturdays. Putting that over to one side for a second because you have it all in writing and I know that you have looked at this and discussed it, we also did want to speak to your interest and concerns around prepay versus exit pay. We all understand and heard your discussions last week that you virtually unanimously do support an exit pay program and understand all of the reasons, fiduciary, to expedite the exiting of guests in these garages as why you do favor prepay. If you do go forward and recommend to the Board of Aldermen a prepay plan, we hope...recognizing that you voted to adopt the exit pay plan, we hope that you will consider non-civic center related businesses and their particular interests as it pertains to parking and downtown so downtown can continue to be used by non-civic center related

guests. When we spoke to you several weeks ago we did endorse and still do an exit pay plan. Again, we recognize all of the special concerns that you are factoring into your suggestions and not knowing where you will take this discussion, if it does turn out that you end up rescinding your previous vote and moving towards recommending a prepay we hope that you will continue to work with us and discuss with us the special needs of the non-civic center related guests. Some refer to them as the white-collar employees of downtown Manchester. The other group is, in fact, the restaurant community who has high turnover and high volume and cannot participate in a validation plan. Then of course the retail sector, the growing retail sectors of downtown. Perhaps if you do come to unanimous agreement that you would like to rescind that vote we hope that you will at least consider further discussion in pursuing a method, a means or a procedure that would accommodate non-civic center guests so that they can get in and out of those garages, use their restaurant, use their retail, use the white-collar businesses and be able to access the community easily and readily.

Chairman Sysyn stated as it stands now they are using prepays. If I want to go to Margaritas, I have to pay before I go into the Vine Street garage.

Ms. Comstock replied at this point in time the garages aren't involved in the volume of business or the volume of traffic that we would expect when the arena is in full operation. I think the concern of the non-civic center related businesses in downtown is that their customers would be discouraged from coming to their establishments or their place of business because of standing in line to get into a place to park and to be paying higher rates. Perhaps if you chose to rescind your vote to endorse exit pay you could still consider a special access into those garages for non-civic center related business.

Chairman Sysyn responded I think in your proposal here you have that a prepay customer can receive a special color ticket so they can get the validated parking. I participate in that too but I only do the daytime version.

Ms. Comstock stated this was an idea that we are offering for your consideration to be able to accommodate both of those audiences.

Chairman Sysyn replied I think the garages are pretty much set because they give those tickets out before the people go in when they prepay so they will be set to use whatever it takes to do a validated ticket.

Ms. Comstock stated I think that is a promising approach to this. I think and just so you know, I know you have been following the gatherings of businesses. The concern is we recognize which I assure them that you do and I hear you weekly speak to that we are sustaining a downtown and creating a downtown that

encourages guests from all walks of life to be able to get into parking facilities, readily park and get into their restaurant, their retail store or their law office. Again, you are right Mary. We did hope that this might be an idea that the planners around parking and garages, the experts, would consider or some modification of that plan to be able to accommodate all kinds of guests of the downtown.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated I would like to get the Traffic Director's opinion on the scenario that has been presented.

Mr. Lolicata asked which scenario. I have heard about a dozen.

Alderman Vaillancourt answered let's start with the first one, the changes in the retail restaurant neighborhood and side street neighborhood and how much would that cost the City as to what we built into the budget for example. Do you have any idea?

Mr. Lolicata stated I saw this briefly when I came back from vacation and I have gone through a little bit of it. Everybody has to realize that we can't please everybody. I am going to say it one more time. We have two sets of meters. A two-hour meter and a ten-hour meter. I have a November 15 date coming up when this is going to be in place. This is our third or fourth time around on this. I am going to come up with what I think is a pretty decent idea, which I saw today from Alderman Lopez. First of all, Mr. Waldecker is going to be late and he is not even aware of this but prepay we are going to do at the Center of New Hampshire. That we know we have to do in that area. At the Victory and Canal Street garages if we can come up with a situation where there is a prepayment and a validation program that you are talking of I think it can be done and it is easier that way but the most important part is taking care of the retailers at the 6 PM, 8 PM and 10 PM hours. I am willing to compromise if we can do something maybe up to an 8 PM deal where maybe after 8 PM and this is just a suggestion from what I read today because we have to do something quickly here and we have to try to please everybody right here. You have to remember one thing. I have to go by ordinances and we are trying to make a blanket for everybody. I don't want to do an ordinance for half the city, a third of the city or a quarter of city. That is hard enough. I think prepayment, yes it can work. I kind of agree with the suggestions that Alderman Lopez came up with.

Alderman Lopez stated just to clarify, I was doing some work for Mary Sysyn when I was talking to you. Mary just passed out her letter.

Mr. Lolicata replied oh well I looked at it quickly and to me it kind of satisfies a few people but I have to go one way or the other. We have to charge a certain amount for the garages by ordinance, a non-event is a certain amount and we still have the Early Bird Special. What I am trying to say is, does 8 PM sound right to you?

Chairman Sysyn responded we should go from 8 AM until 8 PM on the meters instead of 8 AM until 10 PM.

Alderman Vaillancourt asked so you would not agree with the differentiation between the so-called retail neighborhood, restaurant neighborhood and the side street neighborhood.

Mr. Lolicata answered no. I can't please all three at the same time.

Alderman Vaillancourt asked but you would be willing to go from 8 AM until 8 PM in all three neighborhoods.

Mr. Lolicata answered that would be a compromise that I could probably live with and the meters could live with and we could live with.

Alderman Vaillancourt asked so we are talking about a two-hour difference.

Mr. Lolicata answered right. Even if they go into a restaurant at 6 PM or 6:30 PM at least they don't have to worry about getting a ticket after 8 PM.

Alderman Vaillancourt asked and the thought would be that they would already be parked for the civic center prior to 8 PM.

Mr. Lolicata answered yes because of all the events being in the 7 PM or 7:30 PM neighborhood I thought that may work out right. You have to remember another thing too. The Center of New Hampshire and the southern tier down there is going to be hit hard by all of the parkers. I am waiting. I really want to see these events with Aerosmith and the rest of them and see how far north they do come as far as Amherst Street and the Victory Garage. Yes, I would like to work on a prepayment and I would like everybody here to take a look at the paper that Aldermen Sysyn and Lopez came up with.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated when we built the budget it was based on paying until 10 PM. Do you have any idea how much money we would lose by going with this?

Mr. Lolicata replied I don't know if it was taken into consideration up until 10 PM. I don't think you will lose much money at all. Down in the other tier they are going to be paying until 8 PM and it is only two hours after that. I don't think that was included in the budget as far as the extra money to be honest with you as far as revenues were concerned. By the way, Saturday parking, and not offense but everybody is getting into a tiff about this free parking. Manchester used to pay on Saturday for years. We only stopped that four years ago. Now we are going back to the old way of paying on Saturday. It is not big change.

Chairman Sysyn responded and some people still pay on Saturdays because they don't know we have free parking. If they go into the garage they know because they go in and out but a lot of people still pay on Elm Street.

Mr. Lolicata stated for 20 or 30 years if you parked on Elm Street on Saturday you had to pay.

Alderman Vaillancourt asked are you recommending Saturday from 8 AM until 8 PM.

Mr. Lolicata answered yes.

Alderman Vaillancourt asked so 8 AM until 8 PM all areas every day.

Mr. Lolicata answered yes for the two-hour and ten-hour meters. I have to work with this. I have to work with the ordinance and we have to make this as simple as possible.

Alderman Hirschmann stated it seems that every time we come here there is another change. Now that is another change. We don't have meter maid enforcement for Saturday mornings, not that I know of.

Mr. Lolicata replied not now but the Police have that in their budget for the civic center so they can enforce that.

Alderman Hirschmann asked on Saturday mornings.

Mr. Lolicata answered on Saturdays period. That is my understanding.

Ms. Comstock stated I would like to suggest that...as you can see this proposal is actually quite consistent with Tom's thoughts and I would like to ask that if we go to the 8 AM until 8 PM we would consider at least reducing it to 5 PM on Saturdays thinking of an entertainment night. If there is any way that you could make it consistent and easy to understand for enforcement and application so

that...I think what I am suggesting is that most other communities shut their meters off at 6 PM, particularly given the high volume entertainment nights when you want to draw a lot of traffic to your downtown. I would hope that if we go to the 8 AM until 8 PM Monday through Friday could we at least consider 8 AM until 5 PM on Saturday, again to create a downtown that is competitive with other surrounding communities and to encourage people to come down, non-civic center related guests, to use the downtown and the dining and retail community. We did a quick snapshot and I don't have the facts to share with you but I can find that resource. We polled many communities in the New England area and we could not find a community that kept their meters active after 6 PM even on Monday through Friday. I understand we have special concerns but I think for the Saturday I would ask that you at least consider that.

Chairman Sysyn asked did you poll Boston.

Ms. Comstock answered Boston is one of the communities I believe and I want to check my records to make sure I am telling you the correct thing and I will call you tomorrow but Boston is one of the communities that shuts down at 6 PM to the best of my recollection. Portsmouth does, Portland does, San Diego does, Chicago does. Those are coming to mind right now.

Alderman Vaillancourt asked 6 PM on Saturday only.

Ms. Comstock answered most of them shut down at 6 PM six or seven days. Many do not meter on Sunday, but during the weekday it is 6 PM as well. That is very standard.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated well I can tell you that Montreal does not shut down at 6 PM except on Saturday.

Ms. Comstock asked what time do they shut down.

Alderman Vaillancourt answered 9 PM.

Ms. Comstock stated I didn't find that consistent with the New England communities in our general vicinity.

Lt. Lussier stated we have budgeted for four part-time parking control officers. We have some of our people doing background investigations on six of those people right now. Historically we know we will lose several of those and again it is our intention to hire four part-timers. The hours are still somewhat up in the air as far as whether we want them out there until 9 PM or 10 PM. It is our understanding that the meters will go until 10 PM. On Saturdays again it was our

intention to have people out there. There has been some discussion as far as event days versus non-event days and how many we want to have out. Maybe a couple of non-event and maybe four on event days. We are planning on hiring part-time parking control officers.

Alderman Lopez asked did I hear you correctly that those part-time people are only for event nights and not to be utilized any other time.

Lt. Lussier answered I believe it is our intention to have somebody out there every night. Maybe not as many on non-event nights but in order to be consistent so that people can identify event versus non-event nights.

Alderman Lopez stated I really think that is an item that should be discussed because during previous conversations and when the budget was presented it was only on 75 event nights that you would have people out there, not every night ticketing everybody going downtown. I think that we will have to talk to the Chief about that.

Alderman O'Neil stated I have to disagree with my colleague. I don't remember at all that it was only event nights that they would be out there. I thought it was most nights.

Alderman Lopez stated let me just bring something to the Committee's attention. When the budget was presented on additional parking there was a projected revenue of \$657,000 that was projected by the Traffic Department. That was to take care of the police officers and the additional 12 people needed on event nights. Tom, do you agree with that?

Mr. Lolicata answered are you talking about on event nights in the parking lots and stuff, yes we are going to have people for that.

Alderman Lopez stated in your budget you estimated that we give a max of \$4,800 to SMG on those 75 event nights and within that \$657,000 you had a \$40,000 budget for those part-time people. The same thing came in from the Chief of Police at the same time. All of the money that was allocated that we were going to get in revenue would take care of the police and take care of our part-time workers for event nights in the budget. Let me just bring up one other point to the Committee as they make their decision. When we talked about revenue for the meters and the garages and the way the situation is now, we didn't calculate all of the extra money that we were going to get from the meters on non-event nights and people are paying meters now. You have over 2,000 meters out there and an estimated 500 meters are being paid for right now so in a year's time you could be picking up another \$150,000 working on a 30 week basis. Those statistics can be

verified by the Traffic Department. They are getting more money in now and we haven't even had an event. So, people are paying at the meters. We are going to have plenty of money so there is no problem there.

Ms. Comstock stated again a final plea regarding your considerations around Saturday. To consider that Manchester is obviously in a phase of aggressive revitalization and it is now a community that is competing with other surrounding New Hampshire communities and perhaps even Southern Maine but certainly the Portsmouth's of the world and even Vermont communities. We have an incredible arts and cultural community here. We have fine attractions. We have the Palace Theatre, the Millyard Museum and wonderful extraordinary restaurants and I just would like to ask you to carefully consider shutting those meters off on Saturday at 5 PM so that we are competitive with those surrounding communities and there is no appearance of any disincentive to draw visitors and guests to our downtown community on the weekend.

Alderman Vaillancourt asked what about on Sunday when there are events. I assume we are going to be collecting on Sundays as well.

Mr. Lolicata answered Sundays have not been brought up by the Board or anybody. It is still free parking.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated I assume we are going to have civic center events on Sunday.

Mr. Lolicata replied I think 8 or 10 of them. Hockey games alone I think there are at least 8.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated well my collage At-Large notwithstanding, I think more money is better and as you realize I thought this was a rosy scenario that if we are going up a little bit I still think we are going to have trouble meeting the scenario so I think we better do something about getting Sunday money too.

Mr. Lolicata replied originally before all of this took place and all of these changes came up, the original thing was most cities never charge on Sunday. We all knew in our heads eventually that something was going to be happening on Sunday and somebody brought up the idea of garages only. Nothing has been put forth by any of us or you as far as that is concerned so Sunday parking is still free as far as I know.

Alderman Vaillancourt moved the proposal put forth by Alderman Sysyn.

Chairman Sysyn stated Item G where they have stamps that are to be used on the next visit, the stamps are given by the merchants to the person coming in. Mr. Waldecker just came in. The way you would do it is you would give a different ticket to someone who is shopping?

Mr. Waldecker answered yes.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated you are establishing a prepay program, which is not on the books right now. Right now everything is set-up to pay by exit only. That is what was passed by the Board. I don't know how they are doing the prepay now if it is not in the books. It is not authorized. What you adopted does not authorize them to do that and we had made that clear at the time. We can change that through a Committee report and you certainly can recommend that the Board adopt different regulations but that is really what you are doing. You are changing the regulations. We would say that Item A would reflect a prepay as an Early Bird Special and then B is a prepay as I am understanding it. In essence, what you set-up by regulation right now is that it is so much by hour and they pay upon exit. This is reflecting a whole different parking rate and I need to understand clearly if this is for all garages or some garages because we had set that up by garage.

Chairman Sysyn stated we are talking about Canal and Victory.

Deputy Clerk Johnson replied the way you set it up the last time was that we had an hourly rate of 50 cents an hour from 6 AM until 1 AM and that is what I am looking at on the screen right now. It was Monday through Saturday and it excluded holidays. Civic center event parking fees were posted on civic center event nights so rates changed on civic center event nights. It said Monday through Friday Early Bird Special 4 PM —6 PM arrival time, \$3 upon exit. That is the way it was established. Now you are saying it is a prepay for the Early Bird Special. Is this only for event nights or is this every night?

Alderman Lopez stated all night.

Chairman Sysyn stated but they are doing prepay now.

Deputy Clerk Johnson replied they may be doing it but it is not part of your regulations is what I am telling you. Regardless of what they are doing, there is no provision to authorize them to do that. We really need to establish that because that is not what the Board passed and that is not what the Committee recommended in its final decision. What went to the Board does not include any prepay provisions. It did authorize a validation program, which was supposed to be reviewed by the Traffic Department and resubmitted to the Board. That hasn't occurred either. Technically, there is no authorization for the validation program

that is existing now. It never came before the Committee. It was never approved by the Committee. It has just been done. I am not saying there is a right or a wrong but I am saying that if you are going to get particular and set this up you need to have it consistent and say this is what it is and this is what the Board has adopted and this is what the company is to carry out. You can change it to what you have here. I am not saying you can't change it. I just need to know what you want to do and then I can create a report that will reflect that.

Alderman Hirschmann stated the Chamber is telling us that they don't agree with a prepay.

Chairman Sysyn replied they do agree with it if you can still have the validation program.

Ms. Comstock stated I think if you decide to go the route of prepay that it is very important to have consideration for the non-civic center guests and also in that understanding to know that there are businesses downtown, more than you would like, that cannot participate in a so-called validation program where the business is reimbursing because they have too high a volume. You need to know that there are businesses that are looking at Manchester as a location that need to get their customers in and out of that garage without the prepay process.

Chairman Sysyn stated they would get a different ticket and I believe David Waldecker's group is ready to do that. They do it now. They do validation now even though you are telling me it is illegal.

Deputy Clerk Johnson replied they don't have the authority to do that the way it is set-up right now. There is another middle ground here if I might say and Mr. Waldecker may be able to address this. I have been sitting here listening to all of these discussions so I am just going to throw this out. There were issues raised at the last meeting as well about having personnel there until late in the evening, which also attributed to the exit pay that was set-up originally. There were other people who were saying that if there was a prepay then all of the people going to the civic center could get out sooner. If there could be a dual ticket system then the regulations could be set-up as an option for prepay for civic center so somebody coming in could pay if they were going to an event so that they wouldn't have to be waiting in all kinds of lines. If they had a different color ticket they could be waved through and maybe you have one feed out for all of those people with those colored tickets or whatever for civic center event nights only. We could actually set the regulation up that way if you can do a dual ticket system of some sort and that might make everybody happy because you have an exit pay and I don't know how many are going to be left over but...at the last meeting they were saying that they wanted personnel there until late in the evening

anyway on civic center event nights or until most of the cars were cleared from the building, which is going to have to be a management decision on how to deal with that anyway.

Mr. Waldecker replied that is not a bad thing. We should keep somebody there until most of the traffic is out. You nailed it right there. That is our intent. It is pretty simple. I think most people going to the event will prepay. They will expect to prepay and those who don't we will take care of.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated if the Committee wants we can establish a report recommending that a prepay option be available for civic center patrons on civic center event nights but leave the rest of what is in there so there is a pay upon exit as well. It can be done either way that way. If I am going to a restaurant I can take a ticket and come back an hour later and pay my ticket at 50 cents an hour or if I am going to be at the Y for three hours I can do an Early Bird Special and pay the \$3 if I want. If I am going to be at a civic center event then I can pay one of the prices that are shown on the sheet that Chairman Sysyn has submitted to you. We can set it up so that it is an optional program rather than a mandatory program and see if it works.

Ms. Comstock stated it is very close to the pilot that we are suggesting in our memo.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated you are going to have a backlog of cars. I have been in that parking garage when you have an event and if you have every single person stopping to pay, you have to make change for those people as they are coming out and you are going to have a real backlog of traffic in that garage.

Alderman Hirschmann asked what about Item B. It says, "all cars after 6 PM will pay \$5". It doesn't say where they are going. It says "all cars."

Deputy Clerk Johnson answered we can change that to an optional for civic center parking so that they can pay just by the hour if they want or they can pay the civic center rate if they are going to an event and get right out. They won't have to pay upon exit.

Alderman Hirschmann asked are they going to be there until 1 AM.

Chairman Sysyn answered I don't think you need anybody after 12 AM.

Mr. Lolicata stated during events only.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated the regulations now are reading until 1 AM but I think when they were passed part of the discussion was that if there were three or five cars left in the parking garage it is not expected that...if that continues then that would get changed to something more reasonable.

Mr. Waldecker stated it is just like a business. We would make a business decision. If it is not worth being there, we will take off.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated I think we should cater our proposal to the vast majority and not to the incremental minority. The vast majority, we feel, are going to be the people using the civic center so we should tailor it to that end and make the exception the more difficult rather than the majority the more difficult.

Ms. Comstock stated I think it is very important to consider the kind of Manchester you want and the kind of Manchester you are creating and to encourage the direction and growth and broadening the retail community and broadening the restaurant community and being a community that is hospitable to those kinds of tenants today and in the future.

Chairman Sysyn stated I personally feel that these two garages won't be used as much as the garages closer to the civic center.

Mr. Lolicata replied you are possibly right. This thing hasn't started yet and we have to come up with something. The old saying, "keep it simple" is what we are trying to do here. If you are talking about the situation where all cars pay a certain price, you have the 4 PM to 6 PM Early Bird Special and then you have the \$5 after 6 PM. What is wrong with the rest of the City? Can't they park anywhere else if they don't want to park in the garage for \$5? Everybody is focused on these two garages. You have parking all around these restaurants. I am talking meters, lots and everything. I am trying to keep this as simple as possible for ordinances and everything else. The City of Manchester has plenty of parking. It is not just the Victory garage. If I am going to go down to the Brimmer I am going to go into the Hartnett Lot. They have plenty of free parking there. Why do I have to go to the Victory Garage?

Chairman Sysyn stated and I wouldn't go to the Canal Street garage because they won't let me cut through the Plaza. I have been downtown late on a Saturday night and I can't go through the Plaza.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated we might be imagining a boogey many that will never rear its ugly head so I will agree that we should go ahead and do this and hope it is going to work.

Chairman Sysyn replied if it doesn't work properly we can always amend it.

Mr. Lolicata stated at least you are addressing the exiting at night, which everybody is concerned about.

Deputy Clerk Johnson asked so what you are suggesting is to do as it reads on the sheet and say A and B would be prepay.

Chairman Sysyn answered right.

Deputy Clerk Johnson asked is this all night, every night or just civic center event nights.

Chairman Sysyn answered all nights.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated so A and B are prepaid and the meters for all of the downtown area would now be Monday through Saturday, 8 AM until 8 PM.

Chairman Sysyn replied yes.

Deputy Clerk Johnson asked is that including by the civic center area as well. I just want to make sure that I have an understanding of what we are setting up now.

Mr. Lolicata stated that was the original.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated so wherever it was until 10 PM before it is going to read until 8 PM.

Chairman Sysyn replied right.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated we have something here about the Y.

Ms. Comstock stated it was recently brought to our attention that the Y has a high number of young employees who are low wage earners, 250 employees, and there is a deep concern about getting these employees in and out of that facility so that it can sustain itself, as well as the clientele. Truthfully, the same concern applies to the Palace Theatre and its 100,000 visitors every year.

Alderman Pariseau stated I don't understand how you can make certain rules for certain organizations. Those are two non-profit agencies.

Ms. Comstock replied two non-profit entities that are very important amenities to the downtown profile and they draw a high number of people and they complement the cultural make-up of the community in very important ways. If there are manners or ways that we can be supportive of their unique interest, I think it is important to do so.

Alderman Lopez stated in reference to the Y and it is because people get out of work and all of that but that is only during non-civic center event nights that they would be able to use their membership card. There is a great concern for that.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated I am not impressed by the argument about employees because they are not going to be coming in after 6 PM anyway so to me that is irrelevant. I do have some concern for the people who use it, but they probably have the disposal income where they can afford to pay more than your average Joe just like the person going to the Palace probably has a disposal income. I am not set and fast on that but to expedite matters I will move the whole package along.

Chairman Sysyn asked, Carol, how is the motion going to read.

Deputy Clerk Johnson answered if you accept the proposal I will put it in the format that it needs to be in. I just would have one other question that I want to make sure I understand clearly. We will no longer have any hourly rates at the parking garages from 4 PM on. That is what it is saying here. There is no provision for hourly parking. Either you pay \$3 or \$5 depending on whether you come in before or after 6 PM. From 4 PM there are no hourly rates.

Mr. Lolicata stated so the hourly rates will apply from 6 AM until 4 PM only. That is my understanding.

Mr. Waldecker replied that would defeat our validation program.

Ms. Comstock stated that is not consistent with the concept of two colored tickets, one for civic center events...

Deputy Clerk Johnson interjected they are not doing that.

Mr. Waldecker asked where did we lose the validation program in that, which would be an hourly rate.

Deputy Clerk Johnson answered the validation program would have to be transferred to that \$3 or \$5 rate somehow the way it is written here.

Chairman Sysyn stated he is going to give them a separate ticket. He is not going to charge them \$3.

Deputy Clerk Johnson replied that is my point. You have no provision in here for hourly rates. It is a \$3 rate or a \$5 rate. If you want to do the validation on a separate rate, then we should be stating the validation program and what the price of that program is to whoever it is that is paying for it.

Ms. Comstock stated I hope you will preserve that concept. I think that was a very creative solution.

Deputy Clerk Johnson replied part of the reason I am bringing that up is because I think it is intended to do that but there is no provision there for it the way it is established now other than saying you want to continue to do it but it will be at a \$3 rate.

Mr. Waldecker stated the validation program we can work with. We can work around that. The ones who go to the restaurants that don't participate in the validation...what are we charging them then \$3 or they can park at a meter?

Deputy Clerk Johnson replied if it was Modern Bride and they came in after 4 PM, you are charging \$3. That is the rate they would be paying.

Chairman Sysyn stated that is not what we wanted.

Mr. Waldecker stated we want to let those people in with a regular ticket.

Deputy Clerk Johnson responded so the validation program would be established at an hourly rate of 50 cents an hour is what you are saying. Is that what you want to do?

Chairman Sysyn replied yes.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated I want to be clear on this because we have been through this a few times.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated again if I am going to Modern Bride I am probably not going to use the garage. I am probably going to park on the street.

Ms. Comstock replied if you can get a parking space.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated we had a motion by Alderman Vaillancourt but that was before we discussed this other change and I want to make sure that I understand. Do you want to include the change we just talked about for the validation program?

Alderman Vaillancourt replied that would be acceptable.

Deputy Clerk Johnson asked and we are leaving the Y in there. You didn't remove that?

Alderman Vaillancourt answered we left the Y but the Palace is not in there.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated so we have a motion by Alderman Vaillancourt to accept the proposal.

Chairman Sysyn duly seconded the motion. Chairman Sysyn called for a vote. The motion failed with Aldermen Pariseau and Hirschmann duly recorded in opposition.

Alderman Hirschmann stated we already acted on the ordinance and it is getting way too confusing. I think we ought to go with what we have enacted and let it work and when it doesn't work we will come back. Right now you are trying to squeeze something in with one minute left on the clock and it is just not right. If we had an hour to discuss this we could probably work shop this but you are giving us like two seconds.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated so what we are left with is something more onerous than the compromise we defeated.

Alderman Hirschmann stated pay upon exit is fine and they have a validation program in place.

Deputy Clerk Johnson replied but the validation program isn't established under the regulations. Can we establish that at 50 cents an hour because that has been going on anyway and that was the intent of the Board to have a validation program? They were supposed to come back to the Traffic Committee with a plan for that and then submit that to the Board.

Alderman Hirschmann asked who.

Deputy Clerk Johnson answered I believe the Traffic Department.

Alderman Hirschmann replied let them write us a letter and then we will vote on it. You can take a poll.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated okay we will have them put something together and we will poll the Committee and bring it in on the second meeting in October.

There being no further business, on motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Hirschmann, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee